



## *Senate Information Office*

201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:  
March 2, 2006

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Information Contact:  
Merri M. Brantley, Director  
[merri.brantley@senate.ga.gov](mailto:merri.brantley@senate.ga.gov)  
404.463.6833/770.361.4364

## **Senate Passes “Castle Doctrine”** *Bill Allows Georgians to Defend Themselves*

**ATLANTA** – The Senate took another important step to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens by passing SB 396, sponsored by Senator Greg Goggans (R-Douglas).

“The right to protect yourself, your children, or your spouse should be guaranteed, no matter where you are,” said Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) upon passage of the bill.

“Georgians who protect themselves and their families from criminals should be regarded as heroes, not treated like criminals”

Sen. Goggans outlined the bill for the Senate today. SB 396 includes the following provisions:

- If a criminal breaks into your home, your occupied vehicle or your place of business, you may presume he/she is there to do bodily harm and you may use any force against that person.
- It removes the “duty to retreat” if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be. The “duty to retreat” is often taken to mean that before defending themselves a person must attempt to retreat or run away from their attacker.
- It provides protection from criminal prosecution and civil litigation for those who defend themselves from criminal attack.

“I have heard from countless Georgians, expressing their support for this bill,” Goggans said. “People in our state believe we should have the right to protect ourselves first and foremost.

SB 396 now awaits action in the Georgia House of Representatives.

# # # #

*Sen. Greg Goggans represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District which includes Atkins, Bacon, Berrien, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Lanier, Pierce, and Ware counties and portions of Cook County. He may be reached by phone at 404.463.5263 or by e-mail at [greg.goggans@senate.ga.gov](mailto:greg.goggans@senate.ga.gov).*